

December 14, 2012

# Weekly Views

Under the direction of facility volunteer Donna Olson, a group of Plainfield Correctional Facility PLUS offenders, known as the "Knit Wits", completed more than 50 knitted hats and scarves to be sent to orphanages in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. This is the second shipment of knitted wear for the orphanage this year.

Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility adopted 15 children from a local women's shelter in Albion, IN for the Holiday season. Staff purchased presents to be presented at the shelter's annual Christmas party.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) donated \$1,000 to the Homes for Wounded Warriors Program, to help build a house for a wounded veteran in Kokomo, IN. The money was raised by a PLUS

program White Castle hamburger sale and proceeds from the Fresh Favorites Program. Indiana has one of the highest numbers of veterans per capita, with many returning from war with physical limitations. The Wounded Warriors Program provides assistance to these men and women, improving the quality of their lives in many ways.

IDOC Central Office participated in a "Toys for Tots" toy drive this Holiday season. Over the past month, staff donated 102 toys that will be delivered to Hoosier children. "Toys for Tots" is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff went Christmas shopping to help over 200 Knox County kids during the 15th annual Shop with a Cop event. The Vincennes Fraternal Order of Police sponsored event was filled with joy and laughter as children involved in the Head Start Program happily gathered toys and needed clothing, \$170 worth per child.

Thanks to the generosity of staff, the Pendleton Correctional Facility was able to donate 157 food items to the Operation Love Ministries located in Anderson, IN. This organization operates a food pantry and offers a variety of other services to Madison County residents in need.

Staff from Pendleton Correctional Facility's PLUS program visited the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) to present a check in the amount of \$1000 to the Rockville PLUS program for cases of paper, pens, pencils and several copies of *The Purpose Driven Life*. Pendleton staff enjoyed a tour of the facility to learn more about the other innovative programs offered at RCF. The RCF PLUS program is extremely grateful for this generous donation from Pendleton. (see photo below of Pendleton Officer Tesdale, Assistant Superintendent Andrew Cole and Chaplain Peterson from Pendleton and Rockville Chaplain Hayes, Superintendent Julie Stout and Casework Manager Christine Barclay.)

Team DOC announced its next racing event, the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb on March 9, 2013 in downtown Indianapolis. Support lung health and earn bragging rights by climbing 35 flights of stairs in Regions Tower. Visit [www.fightforairclimb.org](http://www.fightforairclimb.org) and search for Team DOC to learn more, register, or donate.

Ann Keil, a reporter from WXIN Fox 59, was on grounds at the Indiana Women's Prison to interview two offenders and Psychiatric Social Services Specialist Allison Green. The story is about one offender in the Wee Ones program and another offender who is receiving help with foster care from a family in the community through Stepping Stones Ministries. Mrs. Green shared her vast knowledge as she spoke about the Wee Ones program.



Madison Correctional Facility held its Celebration of Achievement. Over 200 offenders graduated from various programs, including Business Technology, GED, Growth Responsibility Integrity and Purpose, Residential Reformatory Re-entry Program, Master Student Master Employee, Cosmetology, and the vocational apprenticeship. The keynote speaker was a former inmate who returned to the facility to speak about how the programs she was involved in while incarcerated have helped her turn her life around. The ceremony concluded by recognizing Case Manager Steve Clark who will be retiring on December 21, 2012 after 25 years of service.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) celebrated the season with their annual Christmas Luncheon and holiday gathering. The scrumptious meal of ham, turkey and all the trimmings was hosted by Superintendent Levenhagen and prepared by the facility's Culinary Arts Vocational Education program, with desserts provided by ARAMARK. WCC's executive and administrative staff were happy to help in the celebration by serving the holiday meal to over 300 staff and contract employees.

PEN Products held its annual Board meeting. PEN Products presented strategic goals, performance metrics, re-entry initiatives, new products and new joint venture partnerships. Board members, IDOC Superintendents, joint venture partners, and a work release offender attended the meeting.

In observance of the holiday season, the Gospel Echoes team distributed 3100 cookie gift bags and shared the gospel with offenders and staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.